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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/536,647	05/27/2005	Murali Mani	US020483US	2455
65913 7550 08/22/2008				
NXP, B.V. NXP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT M/S41-SJ 1109 MCKAY DRIVE SAN JOSE, CA 95131				
EXAMINER				
BROWN, MICHAEL J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2116				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/22/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ip.department.us@nxp.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/536,647

Applicant(s)

MANI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael J. Brown

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 29-56 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
2. Claims 1-4, 8-18, and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cote et al.(US PGPub 2004/0234250) in view of Binford, Jr. et al.(US Patent 6,285,405), and further in view of Pires(US Patent 4,180,829).

As to claim 1, Cote discloses a method for synchronizing signals, comprising receiving, from a source(audio/video source 300, see Fig. 16), a first signal(video source signal; see paragraph 0157, lines 8-9) and a second signal(music source signal; see paragraph 0157, lines 9-10) by a receiving apparatus(voice source formatting unit

312, see Fig. 16) of a receiving system(karaoke machine; see Fig. 16), the first and second signals to be displayed on a display apparatus(display 314, see Fig. 16) of the receiving system, the first signal having content of a first modality(video), the second signal having content of a second modality(audio/music), displaying on the display apparatus the first and second signals, said displayed first and second signals being accessible to a user(user; paragraph 0085, line 2)(see paragraph 0084). However, Cote fails to specifically disclose the method comprising the first and second signals having been time-synchronized at the source, nor manually reducing, by the user, the time rate of displaying one of the first signal and the second signal, said manually reducing being directed to time-synchronizing said displaying of the first and second signals on the display apparatus.

Binford teaches a method comprising the first and second signals having been time-synchronized at the source(see column 5, lines 54-56).

Pires teaches a method comprising first and second signals(first and second television signals; see column 4, line 4), and manually reducing by a user(operator; see column 8, lines 8-9) while the first and second signals are displayed on a display(TV monitor 14, see Figs. 1 and 2), the time rate of displaying one of the first signal and the second signal, said manually reducing being directed to time-synchronizing said displaying of the first and second signals on the display apparatus(see column 8, lines 8-11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Binford's delay value setting and Pires' phase adjustment to

Cote's system in order to allow the user to adjust phase of each television signal(see Pires column 8, lines 9-10). The motivation to do so would have been to assure that the whole display is uniform as to hue and horizontal placement(see Pires column 8, lines 10-11).

As to claim 2, Pires teaches the method wherein said manually reducing comprises manually directing a delay compensation circuit(synchronization generator 12, see Figs. 1-2) of the receiving apparatus to electronically reduce said time rate of displaying, and electronically reducing, by the delay compensation circuit, said time rate(see column 8, lines 9-11).

As to claim 3, Binford discloses the method wherein said manually reducing comprises introducing a time delay gap in the displaying of said one of the first signal and the second signal(see column 5, lines 59-65).

As to claim 4, Pires teaches the method wherein said manually reducing does not comprise introducing a time delay gap in the displaying of said one of the first signal and the second signal(see column 8, lines 9-11).

As to claim 8, Cote discloses the method wherein the first modality differs from the second modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 9, Cote discloses the method wherein the first modality is a video modality, and wherein the second modality is an audio modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 10, Cote discloses the method wherein the first modality is a video modality, and wherein the second modality is a text modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 11, Cote discloses the method wherein the first modality is an audio modality, and wherein the second modality is a text modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 12, Cote discloses the method wherein said receiving the first signal and the second signal comprises receiving the first signal and the second signal on separate channels(speech recognition module 310 and voice source formatting unit 312, see Fig. 16).

As to claim 13, Cote discloses the method wherein said receiving the first signal and the second signal comprises receiving the first signal and the second signal as not multiplexed with each other(see paragraph 0157, lines 1-10, also see Fig. 16).

As to claim 14, Pires teaches the method wherein said receiving the first signal and the second signal comprises receiving the first signal and the second signal as multiplexed but not time-synchronized with each other(see column 4, lines 6-10; the signals are mixed at the special effects generator 13 thus multiplexing the signals).

As to claim 15, Cote discloses a system for synchronizing signals, comprising receiving means for receiving, from a source(audio/video source 300, see Fig. 16), a first signal(video source signal; see paragraph 0157, lines 8-9) and a second signal(music source signal; see paragraph 0157, lines 9-10) by a receiving apparatus(voice source formatting unit 312, see Fig. 16) of a receiving system(karaoke

machine; see Fig. 16), the first and second signals to be displayed on a display apparatus(display 314, see Fig. 16) of the receiving system, the first signal having content of a first modality(video), the second signal having content of a second modality(audio/music), display means for displaying on the display apparatus the first and second signals, said displayed first and second signals being accessible to a user(user; paragraph 0085, line 2)(see paragraph 0084). However, Cote fails to specifically disclose the system comprising the first and second signals having been time-synchronized at the source, nor manual reducing means for manually reducing, by the user, the time rate of displaying one of the first signal and the second signal, said manually reducing being directed to time-synchronizing said displaying of the first and second signals on the display apparatus.

Binford teaches a system comprising the first and second signals having been time-synchronized at the source(see column 5, lines 54-56).

Pires teaches a system(phase matching system; see Fig. 2) comprising first and second signals(first and second television signals; see column 4, line 4), and manual reducing means(synchronization generator 12, see Figs. 1-2) for manually reducing by a user(operator; see column 8, lines 8-9) while the first and second signals are displayed on a display(TV monitor 14, see Figs. 1 and 2), the time rate of displaying one of the first signal and the second signal, said manually reducing being directed to time-synchronizing said displaying of the first and second signals on the display apparatus(see column 8, lines 8-11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Binford's delay value setting and

Pires' phase adjustment to Cote's system in order to allow the user to adjust phase of each television signal(see Pires column 8, lines 9-10). The motivation to do so would have been to assure that the whole display is uniform as to hue and horizontal placement(see Pires column 8, lines 10-11).

As to claim 16, Pires teaches the system wherein said manually reducing comprises directing means for manually directing a delay compensation circuit(synchronization generator 12, see Figs. 1-2) of the receiving apparatus to electronically reduce said time rate of displaying, and electronic reducing means for electronically reducing, by the delay compensation circuit, said time rate(see column 8, lines 9-11).

As to claim 17, Binford teaches the system wherein said manually reducing comprises introducing a time delay gap in the displaying of said one of the first signal and the second signal(see column 5, lines 59-65).

As to claim 18, Pires teaches the system wherein said manually reducing does not comprise introducing a time delay gap in the displaying of said one of the first signal and the second signal(see column 8, lines 9-11).

As to claim 22, Cote discloses the system wherein the first modality differs from the second modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 23, Cote discloses the system wherein the first modality is a video modality, and wherein the second modality is an audio modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 24, Cote discloses the system wherein the first modality is a video modality, and wherein the second modality is a text modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 25, Cote discloses the system wherein the first modality is an audio modality, and wherein the second modality is a text modality(see paragraph 0157, lines 7-18).

As to claim 26, Cotes discloses the system wherein said receiving means comprises means for receiving the first signal and the second signal on separate channels(speech recognition module 310 and voice source formatting unit 312, see Fig. 16).

As to claim 27, Cote discloses the system of claim 15, wherein said receiving means comprises means for receiving the first signal and the second signal as not multiplexed with each other(see paragraph 0157, lines 1-10, also see Fig. 16).

As to claim 28, Pires teaches the system wherein said receiving means comprises means for receiving the first signal and the second signal as multiplexed but not time-synchronized with each other(see column 4, lines 6-10; the signals are mixed at the special effects generator 13 thus multiplexing the signals).

3. Claims 5-7 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cote et al.(US PGPub 2004/0234250) in view of Binford, Jr. et al.(US Patent 6,285,405) in view of Pires(US Patent 4,180,829), and further in view of Takehiko et al.(US Patent 6,741,795).

As to claim 5, Cote and Binford teach the method as cited in claim 1; however, Cote and Binford fail to specifically teach the method wherein said manually reducing comprises manipulating a control.

Takehiko teaches a method wherein manually reducing comprises manipulating a control(user interface 133, see Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Takehiko's user interface 133 to Cote and Binford's system in order to transfer user's operation of the digital video player to the navigation manager(see Takehiko column 2, lines 27-28). The motivation to do so would have been to have a mechanism for a user to make adjustments.

As to claim 6, Takehiko teaches the method wherein said control is on the display apparatus(console panel; see column 2, line 26).

As to claim 7, Takehiko teaches the method wherein said control is on a wireless device(wireless controller; see column 2, line 26).

As to claim 19, Cote and Binford teach the system as cited in claim 15; however, Cote and Binford fail to specifically teach the system wherein said manual reducing means comprises a control.

Takehiko teaches a system wherein manual reducing means comprises a control(user interface 133, see Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Takehiko's user interface 133 to Cote and Binford's system in order to transfer user's operation of the digital video player to the navigation manager(see Takehiko column 2, lines 27-28). The motivation to do so would have been to have a mechanism for a user to make adjustments.

As to claim 20, Takehiko teaches the system wherein said control is on the display apparatus(console panel; see column 2, line 26).

As to claim 21, Takehiko teaches the system wherein said control is on a wireless device(wireless controller; see column 2, line 26).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 29-56 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 29 and 43, Cote discloses a method for synchronizing signals, comprising receiving, from a source(audio/video source 300, see Fig. 16), a first signal(video source signal; see paragraph 0157, lines 8-9) and a second signal(music source signal; see paragraph 0157, lines 9-10) by a receiving apparatus(voice source formatting unit 312, see Fig. 16) of a receiving system(karaoke machine; see Fig. 16), the first and second signals to be synchronously displayed on a display apparatus(display 314, see Fig. 16) of the receiving system, the first and second signals having been time-synchronized at the source, the first signal having content of a first modality(video) and a first plurality of time stamps(related time codes; see paragraph 0157, lines 17-18), the second signal having content of a second modality(audio/music) and a second plurality of time stamps(related time codes; see paragraph 0157, lines 17-18), the second plurality of time stamps being synchronized with the first plurality of time stamps(see paragraph 0157, lines 14-18).

Binford teaches a method comprising determining at a plurality of times on a real-time clock(system clock; see column 6, line 7) C.sub.R at the receiving system whether the first and second signals are time-synchronized relative to the clock C.sub.R, said determining being based on analyzing the first and second plurality of time stamps in relation to the clock C.sub.R(see column 6, lines 5-10); and reducing the time rate of displaying one of the first signal and the second signal when said determining determines that the first and second signals are not time-synchronized relative to the clock C.sub.R such that the one is time advanced relative to the remaining other of the first signal and the second signal, said reducing being directed to time-synchronizing said displaying of the first and second signals on the display apparatus(see column 6, line 66- column 7, line 7).

However, neither Cote nor Binford teach the plurality of time stamps originating from the source. Thus independent claims 29 and 43, along with the claims that depend from them are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

6. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by

combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

In this case, regarding the combination of Cote and Pires, Pires teaches first and second television signals and manually reducing(time-synchronizing the displaying of the signals on a display apparatus) the time rate of displaying one of the signals. Though Pires invention is related to two television signals, by combining the ability to time-synchronize those two separate signals(despite their modality) with Cote's video source signal and music source signals. The suggestion to combine is so that Cote's video source signal and music source signal would have that ability to time-synchronize as in the Pires reference.

Regarding the combination of the Cote and Binford reference, Binford teaches two signals(audio and video) signals being synchronized at the source. Though Binford synchronizes the audio and video signals for different reasons(because they require different amounts of time to code/decode and transmit over a network), Binford still synchronizes the two signals at the source. The suggestion to combine is so that Cote's video source signal and music source signal would have the ability to synchronize at the source as well.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Brown whose telephone number is (571)272-5932. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on (571)272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael J. Brown
Art Unit 2116

/Thuan N. Du/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2116